



A Case for Advent
“The Church Year” Series
Romans 8:18-25, p. 944
December 1, 2019
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage we learn how to prepare for Christmas by the celebration of Advent.

The Text: Romans 8:18-25

- 1) Advent helps us separate the biblical Christmas from the secular Christmas.

**Jingle Bells vs O Holy Night*

**Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas vs O Come, O Come, Immanuel*

**Santa Claus is Coming to Town vs It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

- 2) Advent helps us conform to the Christmas message and not the Christmas season.

a) Advent helps us remember our need of Christ – the gift of the incarnation.

b) Advent helps us realign our desires to Christ – the goal of the Second Coming.

c) Advent helps us refresh our life in Christ – the glory of Christmas.

- 3) Advent helps us apply the meaning of Christmas to our normal lives.

- 4) Advent helps us desire the greatest Christmas gift, and the one that is still to come.

Romans 8: 18-25: ¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Response

O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear, Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.

Sunday Text Questions for Romans 8:18-25

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- 1) Starter Question: Have you ever celebrated Advent before, and if so, what was your experience like?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) Reflecting on v. 18, how would you describe “the sufferings of this present time?”
- 4) How do people in our culture handle the difficulties and sufferings they face?
- 5) How can the “glory to be revealed to us” (v. 18) be better than the sufferings in this world, and how does that give you hope and comfort?
- 6) How is creation effected by sin/the Fall, according to vv. 19-20?
- 7) How do vv. 22-23 teach us about the longing both creation and God’s children experience as they wait for the return of Christ?
- 8) How have you experienced the “inward groan” (v. 24) as you wait for Jesus to restore all things in the New Creation, and how does Christianity give you hope?
- 9) How might the celebration of Advent each December help you grasp and appropriate more fully the meaning of Christmas?
- 10) How might Advent help center your longings and desires in the person and work of Jesus Christ?

Further study this week: Advent Week One readings – Hope and Promise: Genesis 12:3 and 17:19 (Mon); Genesis 28:14 and 49:10 (Tues); Jeremiah 33:14-15 (Wed); Matthew 1:1 and 1:17 (Thurs); Ephesians 3:6 (Fri).